

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS

- (1) A hollow plastic bottle, which comprises:  
a hollow body of thermoplastic material having a generally cylindrical side wall,  
an upper end with a dispensing opening therein, and a lower supporting  
base with an inwardly extending portion;  
said side wall including a plurality of circumferentially spaced apart, vacuum  
panels and a plurality of elongated posts positioned between the panels;  
top and bottom recessed cylindrical bands above and below said vacuum panels;  
and wherein said bottom band extends continuously around the circumference of  
said bottle, and wherein said top band includes at least two spaced apart  
discontinuities comprising raised portions each of which interrupts the continuity  
of the top band.
- (2) A bottle according to claim 1, wherein the top and bottom bands are each single  
bands.
- (3) A bottle according to claim 2, wherein said discontinuities are each positioned  
over the central portion of a vacuum panel.

- (4) A bottle according to claim 3, including two of said discontinuities spaced 180° apart.
- (5) A bottle according to claim 2, including a generally dome shaped portion located between the upper end and side wall.
- (6) A bottle according to claim 5, including six of said spaced apart vacuum panels.
- (7) A bottle according to claim 6, wherein said elongated posts comprise smooth, vertically elongated land areas which space apart each vacuum panel from each other.
- (8) A bottle according to claim 1, wherein each vacuum panel includes an inwardly offset peripheral portion.
- (9) A bottle according to claim 8, wherein said inwardly offset peripheral portion surrounds two central, outwardly extending vertical portions separated by a depressed portion.

- (10) A bottle according to claim 9, wherein said inwardly offset peripheral portion has curved upper and lower regions and wherein the depressed portion is located centrally on said vacuum panels.
- (11) A bottle according to claim 2, including a label mounting area covering said vacuum panels and top and bottom recessed bands.
- (12) A bottle according to claim 2, including an inwardly extending central portion of the base, a peripheral rim to support the bottle when standing, and radially extending, outwardly disposed spokes extending between the central portion of the base and the peripheral rim.
- (13) A bottle according to claim 4, wherein the bottle includes a parting line and wherein the discontinuities are each situated  $90^\circ$  from the parting line.
- (14) A bottle according to claim 2, wherein the thermoplastic material is polyethylene terephthalate.
- (15) A bottle according to claim 1, wherein said bottle is a hot fill container.

(16) A bottle according to claim 10, wherein said inwardly offset peripheral portion includes an outer perimeter and an inner perimeter, wherein the outer perimeter of said inwardly offset peripheral portion is depressed further than the inner perimeter.